

TWIN COAST ARCHERS



March/April 2014

Thankyou to all who let me know of their successes. For those that do not know, Email me at stgd94@gmail.com with your archery related news/pics that you want to share.

Hunters: If you intend sending pics through of bowshot game, please ensure you select the most 'clean' pictures. I.e, ones with the least blood/dirt etc... on the animal. Thankyou

Tournament News

As far as K3D round 1 goes - many attended but the competition was tough for some. Those that made a top 3 placing are as follows: Sam Overton - 3rd Junior Unlimited, Tim Riddiough - 1st Junior Barebow, Matt Riddiough - 3rd Junior Barebow, Samuel Orchard - 1st Cubs Limited, Craig Riddiough - 1st Cubs Barebow and a clean sweep in Non Competitive with Stephen Riddiough taking 1st, Ben Jansen taking 2nd and Jacob Burton taking 3rd.

K3D Round 2 - Competition also proved tough for most, however Jed Murmen laid claim to 3rd place in Junior Unlimited and Sam Overton is not to be overlooked, having only lost out to Jed by 4 points! Well done to those who put in the effort anyway. Next time a placing maybe...

As far as the overseas competition went, Benjamin found himself with a first place in Australia when no-one showed up in his division. One has to be there to place so well done Benjamin - good on you for making the effort! Stephen was in a large division however (thats what you get when you shoot all the bells and whistles!). He went over to have fun more than get a placing...and that's exactly what he did. One doesn't have to place to have had a good time!

Bowhunting News

Congratulations to Jarod - the brand new bowhunter in the club who casually informed me when I got back from down South "Shot 3 turkeys! First one off the deck..." Some people have it easy! Also a youngster who has taken to murdering animals with his bow is Tom - with a tally of a rabbit and 3 possums now. The other first was an Eel for Samuel Orchard. Total tallies from 1st March – 30th April include: 2 Fallow deer, 6 pigs, a Wallaby, 22 Goats, 3 Rabbits, 5 Hares, 66 Koi Carp, 2 Eels, 11 Turkeys, a rat and 34 Possums.

Club News

As you probably all know now, the club has some bales to shoot into now. They are certainly working a lot better for the higher draw weight bows. Thankyou to those who were involved in sourcing them.

If you have a short archery story you would like to share – please send it on through and it may well feature here...

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BUNNY BUSTER by Tom Watson (age 10)

One day we went down to a friends place, she had six wild rabbits and there was a really big one. This sounded great! Shortly after we arrived, the dog and I went down to the garden. We heard a scamping in the leaves and of course it was a rabbit! The dog got

really hyped up and I saw the rabbit crouching down in the leaves. I drew my bow, released and got him in the lung. He ran a couple of feet and then died. I picked him up, walked back to the house and showed it to my mum and her friend. There was a boy who asked if he could skin it and that is what we did. Later he said that there was a possum in the shed wall so we went over there and started to bang the wall. Sure enough he came out and crawled along the top beam of the shed. I was about to shoot when I thought my arrow would go straight through the possum and hit the roof which might break the arrow. I decided not to shoot. Later we made rabbit stew - it was alright.

16th April 2014 - A Day When Everything Went Right! by Sarah Thoroughgood

Little did I know how great the day would be when I crawled out of bed at 6:30am (after a late night the evening before). The temperature was around 5 degrees outside but somewhat nicer and toasty under my sleeping bag on the couch! Too bad!

The farmer I was staying with put the jug on and we chucked some toast in the toaster. After a few bits of toast and a hot drink, I had to make up my mind where to hunt. I decided on the block of trees at the back of the property.

A little while later, I was sneaking uphill keeping an eye out for deer. I heard one jump, usher a quick bark of disapproval and run away...all within 40y but out of my sight. Quietly I kept creeping up the hill. I spotted a couple in the neighbours, but he doesn't like the deer shot so I waited for them to move off and headed on my way. Soon after, a buck appeared from around the corner on a track above me. My heard started beating a bit quicker, he was due to walk within 20y of me if he followed the track. I carefully sank to my knees behind a small bank, nocking an arrow. The buck was obviously on a 'doe' mission and wandered with purpose along the track. Then he actually walked off the track and towards me. When he went behind some trees, I eased my bow back to full draw. I guessed he'd walk out the left hand side of the tree in front of me so pointed my bow that way. Turns out he walked out the right hand side..all of 10y away! I slowly moved my bow around but he saw me and bolted! Nevermind..what a close encounter!

I proceeded on my way, keeping a good eye out. A doe was spotted but I failed my mission to get to her. There was far to much scrub in the way. Not all was bad though...

A short while later I was near the top of the ridge. I sat on a rock and waited, listening. Nothing could be heard so I considered what to do next. 'Snort' A goat cleared its nostrils (not an alerting snort)! 'Aha! there is something near.' I started stalking down the hill through light scrub when I heard a squeal. To be honest, it sounded like some sort of bird. Whatever it was, it was perfectly going to be in my line of travel so I carefully continued on.

What a surprise I got when I stepped around a gorse bush and there was a sow scruffing a young pig and sending it on its way...squealing. I wasted no time quietly slipping an arrow out of my quiver and nocking it. Not wanting to jump into things too quickly, I waited...watching their behaviour. The sow went back to busily rooting with a younger boar not far away. Young weaner pigs were walking closer and closer to me, finding the best spot to turn over the soil! I naturally wanted the biggest one so when she finally turned slightly quartered on instead of front on, I drew back. At 15y, it didn't take the arrow long to reach its mark. The pig squealed in surprise but didn't have much time to think having said the arrow wizzed through both lungs and landed in the scrub behind her. 15y downhill was all she could master before leaving life behind her! I managed to take a half decent picture before gutting her and hauling her onto my back. 2km of rough country later...she was in the meat safe back at the farm shed.

I cleaned up a bit, had a bite to eat and thought about what I'd do that evening.

At 4pm, I was back off up the hill (2km high)...looking for a pig just on dark. If I was lucky, I'd score a deer on the way up. I was busy thinking 'How amazing would that be, a pig and a deer in the same day...' then that voice in the back of my head reminded me that the chances of that would be quite slim. Nevertheless, I spotted a doe and yearling over the other side of the hill. I proceeded to stalk them but the wind gave it away just when things were looking promising. Nevermind...off to get in position for the pigs...

Just on dark, as predicted, 6 pigs appeared uphill of me. I hastened to get to them before it got fully dark. 'BOOM' echoed down in the valley...the pigs ran away in quick order. Grrrr! Oh well, at least Patrick (the farmer) obviously shot one down at the neighbours (with his rifle obviously). I waited awhile incase they came back out...but they didn't.

The fog came in thick and fast as well as heavy drizzle. It was time to get out of there! I headed downhill, checking a rabbit hotspot on the way down. With two arrowed, I continued on my way. The weather started getting a bit horrible so I ran down the hill (to keep warm), relying on my headlamp to guide me. I went the long route back to the farm house, incase I chanced upon a rabbit or hare where I've seen them before. What did I chance on instead...a DEER! 6 actually.... 4 ran off but I noticed the last 2 under a stand of trees as I walked around the corner. They weren't bothered by the light at all, but I couldn't shoot one under torchlight if I wanted to claim it with the Bowhunters Society (which I definately did!). I nocked an arrow, with the deer still grazing 15y away (the younger one was only 5y away). Turning my light off, I let my eyes adjust to the darkness. I could only just make out the deer. This was going to be difficult! I drew back and there's no way I was going to see the doe through my peep sight so I looked to the side, positioned my bow where I thought would be good and then anchored properly. Hoping all was right (I did have to double check a few times), I released. My arrow had a lightednock on and when I saw that little red light abruptly stop and crash to the ground about 15y in front of me, I knew this deer was in big trouble! I turned my light on, and sure enough...there was my deer and she wasn't going far with an arrow through her spine and 1 lung. WOW! Two deer in two days (I'd shot a young buck on the 14th), not to mention a pig and deer (plus two rabbits) in the same day! This trip was rapidly going from great to awesome!!!